

NO GROUND HOG.

Local Weather Office Shatters Old Tradition.

Many Cases Where the Little Rodent Was Mistaken.

HE'S A NATURE FAKE.

So Says Observer Snowden D. Flora.

And He Is the Man Who Ought to Know.

On only a few occasions within the last 22 years has the groundhog theory of governing the weather proved correct and the ground hog, along with the crowd of children and others of their ilk should be consigned to the bushes. The ground hog is a nature fake, an abomination and a false prophet according to records in the local weather office. Beside this he knows nothing whatever about weather. Snowden Darius Flora, observer at the local station, who put the fake weather prophets on the run last fall has started on the trail of the ground hog and there promises to be a demand for an animal product in the ground hog records or go hide himself and forever hold his peace.

According to an old established theory if the ground hog sees his shadow today cold weather will prevail for the next six weeks, and the ground hog will return to the hole in which he has lain all winter. If, however, he fails to see his shadow the ground hog will continue his wanderings, as warmer weather will prevail.

If the ground hog acts as reported there has probably been a number of deaths in the ground hog family within the last 20 years in Kansas. There has been plenty of weather, when the ground hog was out, cold enough to freeze him to death. The following statement, taken from the records of the weather office show how the ground hog has made his guess since the weather bureau established an office here:

When He Missed It.

In 1888 ground hog day was cloudy. February was warm and March only slightly colder than normal. Net animal product for the ground hog. Ground hog day in the next year, however, was clear and while February was slightly colder the temperature going up on February 2, but March was a warmer month than usual. In 1890 February 2 was cloudy and although February was a warm month, March was much colder than usual and ground hogs out at that time were likely to have their ears frosted. In 1891 ground hog day was clear and both February and March were colder than normal. The weather for the ground hog, despite the weather sharks. The next year, however, the ground hog saw his shadow and a warm February and March followed. The ground hog's shadow was seen in 1893 and February was cold for a couple of weeks. March was warm and if the ground hog remained in his hole six weeks he missed a lot of nice weather. One of the worst guesses the ground hog is alleged to have made was made in 1894 when he saw his shadow and a warm February and next to the warmest March on record followed. In 1895 the shadow of the ground hog should have been plenty to tell him that February cold for two weeks followed. From February 15 on the weather was quite warm.

In 1896 the ground hog scores again when, after a cloudy February, two warm months followed. The year 1897 was against the ground hog, the day being partly clear and two warm months followed. The ground hog theory was also bumped hard on the succeeding year when after a day on which the ground hog did not see his shadow the coldest February on record and a cold March followed.

In 1900 ground day was clear. February was a cold month and March a warm one. The year 1901 had a cloudy ground hog day and the coldest months on record followed. March was warm. The shadow was visible again in 1906 and a warm February and cold March followed. In 1907 a clear ground hog day was followed by a week of cold weather and continued warm weather until summer. In 1908 ground hog day was clear and two warm months followed. Last year the ground hog saw his shadow and two warm months followed.

The ground hog saw his shadow in 1904 with the same result as on the preceding year. In 1905 ground hog day was cloudy and the coldest months on record followed. March was warm. The shadow was visible again in 1906 and a warm February and cold March followed. In 1907 a clear ground hog day was followed by a week of cold weather and continued warm weather until summer. In 1908 ground hog day was clear and two warm months followed. Last year the ground hog saw his shadow and two warm months followed.

FAIL FOR A MILLION.

Fisk and Robinson File a Petition in Bankruptcy.

New York, Feb. 2.—Fisk & Robinson, bond dealers and members of the New York Stock Exchange, have failed for a million dollars.

An involuntary petition in bankruptcy has been filed by creditors in the federal court and Bronson W. Brown was appointed receiver with a bond of \$50,000. Shrinkage in the value of Buffalo & Susquehanna railway stocks and bonds held by the firm caused the failure.

The failure is one of the largest since the panic of 1907, not so much as liabilities are concerned, but in view of the importance of the firm, which has branches in Chicago, Boston and Worcester.

The firm was founded in 1896 by Harvey Fisk, the eldest son of George Fisk, the banker, and George Robinson, who had been in the employ of the banking firm of Harvey Fisk & Sons.

The business of the firm was principally banking business and the floating of bonds. The petition in bankruptcy was filed with the full consent of the firm's members, having concluded that this was the only way to avoid further losses.

A statement issued by the receiver says the firm's secured obligations amounted to \$3,000,000 and the unsecured debts to more than \$1,000,000.

Little surprise was manifested at the failure in banking circles, when it was said that the firm had received several

WM. BAKER IS DEAD.

Served Sixth District in Congress Three Consecutive Terms.

Lincoln Center, Kan., Feb. 2.—Ex-Congressman William Baker died at 4:15 Tuesday afternoon. He was 79 years old and death was hastened by pneumonia poisoning, from which he suffered several days after he fell from his horse. He was elected to congress from the Sixth Kansas district three consecutive terms.

His home in Lincoln Center was a fine one. He was a native of New York.

His wife, Mrs. Baker, survives him.

His funeral will be held at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning at the Lincoln Center church.

His remains will be buried in the Lincoln Center cemetery.

His family consists of a son, Mr. W. B. Baker, and a daughter, Mrs. M. B. Baker.

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BIBLED TREASURE.

Eccentric Perry Rice Would Not Trust the Banks.

Now His Heirs Are Searching for His Fortune.

HAVE FOUND \$21,000.

Glen Elder Has Never Had His Equal as a Sensation.

Wealth of Hermit Buried About His Premises.

Glen Elder, Kan., Feb. 2.—A story which smacks of the days of Captain Kidd and his hidden pirate boards of fiction has come to light in this county, following the discovery of \$21,000 in currency by the heirs of Perry Rice, one of the old time residents of this county, who died recently. The heirs are continuing the search in the belief that only a portion of the old man's wealth has been uncovered, and before it ends the home place will be turned upside down for a depth of several feet.

Some of the money already unearthed was in the yard, more in the cellar and a roll containing \$5,000 was found in an old mattress just before it was consigned to the flames.

Mrs. Rice, one of his daughters, was searching for hidden treasure in the cellar and found a buried can which contained \$15,000. This money was all in gold and the search was taken up with renewed vigor in the yard which was buried in the yard \$5,000 more was found.

Lived the Life of a Hermit.

Mr. Rice was known in and about this city for his eccentricities and for years past had had no confidants.

He was a hermit in the hovel which answered the purpose of a home to him. He owned much city property, including several big houses, buildings and three good farms, from which he derived a considerable revenue, which he refused to deposit in banks.

His death was much speculation before his death, as to where he kept his wealth, and it was the common talk that it was buried about the place.

This led to the search which has so handsomely rewarded his heirs. A great while ago a force of workmen were excavating for a cement walk and their labors were watched closely by the old man until one of them unearthed a can filled with glittering gold coins, which he carried away with him to a more secure hiding place.

Planted His Gold at Night.

Stories are in general circulation of mysterious happenings which the neighbors have witnessed about the place for years past and indicate that all of the old miser's hoard of wealth had not yet been located. Often late at night he has been seen busily digging about in his yard and it is believed that he was during those periods not yet being located.

Late one night he was seen to go to his well with a lantern on his arm, and it is thought that at least a part of his fortune will be found at the bottom of his well.

Some of the stories go on to say that he had a secret passage leading to his farm as well as city property, and he was thoroughly searched. He left no will, though it is thought that his property was worth at least \$50,000, because of the fact that he had been working for hours, drew out the worst of the fumes that it was possible to begin the rescue.

Throughout the night each lift of the case brought forth a new discovery. The ground until early this morning 33 had been recovered.

In the panic of grief about the mine shaft it has been impossible to ascertain the number of men who escaped and the number of dead can not be accurately stated.

The news of the disaster spread quickly to the numerous mines in Muhlenberg county, and hundreds of mine workers hastened to the scene. Thousands of curious were also attracted.

DRANK STEALING WHISKY.

Man Confesses He Committed Many Burglaries While Drunk.

Pontiac, Mich., Feb. 2.—Developments following a raid of the Clinton hotel bid fair to reveal the source of nearly half a hundred burglaries in Pontiac in the last three years.

Monroe, proprietor of the Clinton hotel, and when sober a respectable citizen, admits, the police declare, most of the burglaries committed by the officers things that will lead to discovering the rest of the robbers.

Monroe is said to have been shot by a man named P. F. Knight, Wednesday night, but escaped and went to Windsor, Ont., where his wound was cared for. To the sisters who nursed him, Monroe is reported to have confessed that he had returned to Pontiac with the idea of giving himself up, but the officers made the arrest before he had carried out his intentions.

George Hicks and Richard Hicks, the brothers-in-law of Monroe, and William Brown have been arrested on the charges told by the Chester Price. Monroe declares that every time he had a few drinks of whisky the impulse to steal became irresistible.

INFANTICIDE A MANIAC.

Judge Had Told Him He Hoped Victim's Cries Would Haunt Him.

Princeton, Ind., Feb. 2.—William Pohlman, of Indianapolis, who was convicted of the murder of his six-week-old child, is a raving maniac and has been sent to the insane hospital.

Pohlman and the child's mother were arrested by the police of Carmel, Ind., to find a home for the child when Pohlman took it from the train and crushed its head under his foot. He previously had been known as a model young man.

In sentencing him the judge said he hoped Pohlman would ever hear in his ears the cries of his innocent babe. It is said reason fled soon after this sentence was pronounced.

Mother of 26 Children.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Feb. 2.—Mrs. Philip W. Webster, 42 years old, has given birth to her twenty-sixth child. She married at the age of 15. Five pairs of twins and one set of triplets were included in the number, but none of them lived.

T. S. WILLIAMS IN RACE.

Well Known Topekan Enters Contest for Commissioner.

T. S. (Sherman) Williams, ex-commissioner of elections and at the present time in the building and contracting business, makes the announcement today that he is candidate for city commissioner.

Mr. Williams has a good following over the city and fully expects to lead among the first in the race which will end this spring.

"My name has not been published in the list of candidates," said Mr. Williams today, "but I do not wish to be considered a 'dark horse' in this race. I am a candidate in good faith and if elected will stand at all times for the best interests of the city."

SUPPORTED THE COOKES.

Warriner Furnished Them Money to Guard Against Exposure.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 2.—The trial of Mrs. Jeannette Stevens Ford for alleged blackmail was continued here today, Judge Swing declining to stop the proceedings on the motion of the defense to dismiss because Prosecuting Attorney Hunt refused to obey a court order to furnish the defense with a transcript of the grand jury testimony of Charles L. Warriner.

The decision is not final, Judge Swing stating the point at issue is involved in a case before the supreme court of the state and until that is decided he would hold the matter in abeyance.

He said the defense could take exception to this course and if the supreme court denied the contention that grand jury proceedings are inviolate a motion for a new trial would be entertained if the higher tribunals of the state should so decide.

Attorney Thorndyke took up the cross examination of Warriner, who, he had "run around" with Mrs. Ford.

It was brought out that Warriner had contributed to the support of the Cooke and the Stevens and the witness said he had done this voluntarily because there was a general danger of exposure and Cooke was out of work.

His testimony was given importance, tending to show the probable attitude Warriner will adopt if Cooke is tried on the indictment charging him with having received stolen money.

Remarkable Traveler.

Sven Anders Hedin, the Swedish explorer—whose name is pronounced with the "e" short and the "i" like "ee"—is not untraveled by any other traveler of modern times, with the possible exception of Henry M. Stanley.

The medal conferred upon him in absentia at the meeting of the Philadelphia Geographical Society, last Wednesday evening was in recognition of a series of notable achievements in the exploration of the interior of Asia.

His journeys of 1885, when a lad of 20, and including in the quarter century since that year the wastes of central Asia, Mongolia, Siberia, and in particular the country of Tibet.

"The roof of the world." His last journey in northern Tibet, from which he has just returned, was in some respects his most important. He waited in the Himalayas for the British, under Younghusband and Macdonald, in 1903, entered the holy city of Lhasa and effected a compromise between the British and the Chinese.

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NOW JOHNSON IS SUED.

Norman Pinder Wants \$20,000 Personal Damages.

New York, Feb. 2.—The "golden smile" was in evidence as Jack Johnson, the heavyweight pugilistic champion, pleaded not guilty to the assault indictment against him.

Johnson appeared in the general sessions court, wearing his big fur lined overcoat and a profusion of diamonds, surrounded by a crowd of admirers. He was summoned to answer the charge of Norman Pinder, who accuses Johnson of assaulting him in an uptown hotel.

Council for Pinder asked that the bail be raised from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Pinder was badly injured, the lawyer claimed. Johnson's attorney said that information he had from a physician did not sustain this claim.

"Why, judge," said the heavyweight, "I came all the way from Buffalo just as soon as I heard of this indictment against me."

"Well," said the court, "you go back to Buffalo. I will fix bail at \$2,500." The court then adjourned.

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